

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Almond et al.

Application No.: 09/866,461

Filed: May 24, 2001

Title: SURGICAL SEAL



Attorney Docket No.: UDL1P063

Examiner: Unassigned

Group: Unassigned

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on November 1, 2001.

Signed:

Lara M. Nelson

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE CLAIMSPlease amend the following claim as follows:

8. A seal as claimed in claim 1, including a diaphragm adapted to contact the shaft of a surgical instrument extending through the aperture.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

C. Douglass Thomas
Reg. No. 32,947

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, California 94704-0778
(650) 961-8300

**COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED**